He was also abusive, a "very hard drinker ... very inconsiderate in the treatment of his wife." According to Mrs. Smith, he took time off work "so that he could lie awake and watch her." While such behaviour would have been irritating enough, it is his "attitude" at which Mrs. Smith expresses annoyance. One suspects that at the very least her husband had begun to treat her as a "lunatic," an insult which by itself might have precipitated "lunatic" behaviour. Whatever else she reacted to, Mrs. Smith reacted to the effects of a self-fulfilling label. It is hardly surprising that, after this brief visit home, she returned to the Asylum "very much in the same condition as when she went out, and mildly excited." The only surprise is that she was not worse.

One of the delusions noted on her "Certificate," that "people were plotting against her and wanting to shoot her," probably was a memory of something that happened before she was married. Mrs. Smith's sister states that, when she had refused to marry her present husband because of his alcoholism,

> he came up to the sister's house [where Mrs. Smith was staying] with a revolver and pointed it at the patient, stating that if she did not consent to marry him, and did not marry him when he wanted her he would kill her.

Mrs. Smith's sister adds further alarming details of her brother-in-law's behaviour, such as his sleeping "with a razor under his pillow" and threatening "to kill his wife if she did not do what he wished in every particular." If Mrs. Smith's sister is telling the truth, Mrs. Smith had been traumatized by her husband.

The Record states that during her visit home Mrs. Smith's husband had also kept her children away from her. Late at night Mrs. Smith ran into the street screaming and calling for the police "to have her husband put into custody for the abuse of her children." Mr. Smith's letter to Dr. Day of November 19 1910 describes this event from a different perspective. He states that "she won't stay anywhere else unless she has the children," as if it were another indication of insanity (but not, as we might suppose, a reaction to his abusiveness).

Nevertheless, when early in the morning he caught her dressing to go out, he suggested that "I would like her to go over and stay with her sister." She